

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00826 01 OF 02 102151Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-10 /025 W
-----061045 102200Z /63

R 101641Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0284
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DUBLIN 00826

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN IRISH PRESS MARCH 10, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH PRESS
MARCH 10, 1978 UNDER HEADING JUST WHAT THE
DOCTOR (GOEBBELS) ORDERED:

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN IRELAND AND ENGLAND ARE
DEGENERATING INTO A SORT OF HISTORICAL CLICHE.

AS THE TORIES ADVANCE ON THE LABOUR PARTY IN THE
OPINION POLLS AND MRS. THATCHER PLAYS ORANGE AND
BLACK CARDS WITH RUTHLESS CALCULATION, MR. MASON
RESPONDS TO THIS PRESSURE AND TO THE INCREASINGLY
DISASTROUS DRIFT OF EVENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND
WITH A SERIES OF UTTERANCES THAT COULD JUST AS
WELL COME FROM HIS TORY OPPOSITE NUMBER, MR.
AIREY NEAVE.

INDEED, IT IS CHILLING FOR ANYONE WHO HAS MADE
A STUDY OF ANGLO/IRISH RELATIONSHIPS TO CON-
TEMPLATE THE TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDEE
SIMILARITIES OF THE TWO MEN'S POSTURINGS. EACH
IS BASED ON PREJUDICES, MISINFORMATION AND A
GOEBBELS-LIKE USE OF THE TECHNIQUE OF THE "BIG
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00826 01 OF 02 102151Z

LIE."

MR. MASON IS PLAYING POLITICS OF A LOW AND
VICIOUS NATURE WHEN HE VIRTUALLY SUGGESTS THAT
THE SOUTH BEARS A RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LA MON
ATROCITY. WE DO NOT. IN FACT, THE SOUTH
PARTICULARLY UNDER THE LAST GOVERNMENT, COULD

FAIRLY BE ARRAIGNED FOR EXPENDING TOO MUCH OF THIS COUNTRY'S RESOURCES ON THE SECURITY ISSUE AND NOT ENOUGH ON THE ERADICATION OF DOMESTIC CRIME. THE STREETS OF DUBLIN WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY SAFER, IF THE MONEY THE REPUBLIC WAS SPENDING ON POLICING THE BORDER, IN A VERY REAL SENSE ACTING AS BRITAIN'S POLICEMAN, WAS INSTEAD SPENT ON POLICING THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE COUNTRY.

MR. MASON KNOWS THIS AND HE HAS TRUMPED UP A RIDICULOUS DOCUMENT WHICH CLAIMS TO SHOW THAT THE SOUTH IS THE FONS ET ORIGO OF THE NORTHERN SECURITY PROBLEM AND WHICH IS IN REALITY SIMPLY A PIECE OF BLACK PROPAGANDA WHICH SHOULD BE CLASSED UNDER THE HEADING OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND NOT AS PART OF THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

MR. MASON'S ATTITUDE IS CONTEMPTUOUS, BELITTLING, AND DANGEROUS AND THE KIND OF SENTIMENT HE IS STIRRING UP NOW AGAINST A BACKDROP OF IRISH RELATIONSHIPS WITH ENGLAND IS OF BENEFIT ONLY TO THE MILITARIST INCLINED.

IF SOME OF MR. MASON'S STAFF COULD LAY HANDS ON
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00826 01 OF 02 102151Z

A MAP OF BELFAST AND DRAW TO HIS ATTENTION THE WHEREABOUTS OF SUCH PLACES AS ANDERSONSTOWN, TURF LODGE, BALLYMURPHY AND THE CLONARD DISTRICT, TO NAME BUT A FEW, MEANWHILE POINTING OUT THEIR SITING IN RELATION TO THE BORDER AND TO OTHER POINTS OF IMPORTANCE IN THE SOUTH SUCH AS DUBLIN AND CORK, IT MIGHT GIVE HIM A CLEARER PERSPECTIVE ON HIS PROBLEM.

BUT THEN, PERSPECTIVE OR INSIGHT HAVE NOT BEEN AMONG MR. MASON'S MOST NOTICEABLE QUALITIES. HIS INSENSITIVITY IN ARRANGING QUEEN ELIZABETH'S VISIT TO COINCIDE WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNMENT DAY AND THE APPRENTICE BOYS' MARCH, WHICH FIRST PUT THE TORCH TO NORTHERN IRELAND IN AUGUST OF 1969, WAS A GLARING REMINDER OF HIS LACK OF CONCERN FOR THE MINORITY'S SUSCEPTIBILITIES.

AND TO UNDERScore THAT INSENSITIVITY, MR. MASON, WHO FREQUENTLY LECTURES TV PEOPLE ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, NOW BEAMS INEFFABLY AND NIGHTLY

FROM THE CLIP OF FILM THAT CONCLUDES UTV TRANSMISSIONS.
WHATEVER PEOPLE OF A NATIONALIST STAMP MAY HAVE FELT
ABOUT THE OLD END-OF-TRANSMISSION FILM WHICH SHOWED
QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PRINCE PHILIP DRIVING THROUGH
LONDON, THEIR MAJESTIES WERE AT LEAST ON THEIR OWN
SOIL. BUT THEY NOW HAVE A REMINDER OF A HIGHLY
UNPOPULAR VISIT WITH A PICTURE OF A HIGHLY
UNPOPULAR SECRETARY OF STATE TO SEND THEM OFF TO

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00826 02 OF 02 102149Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-10 /025 W
-----061006 102203Z /63

R 101641Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO USINFO WASHDC
INFO *SECSTATE WASHDC 0285
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 DUBLIN 00826

SLEEP. IT IS NO WONDER THAT MANY OF THE EVENTS
IN NORTHERN IRELAND FREQUENTLY APPEAR TO BE
HAPPENING IN A NIGHTMARE. BEFORE THE NIGHTMARE
GETS ANY WORSE, SOMEONE SHOULD EITHER TAKE MR.
MASON ASIDE AND TELL HIM A FEW HOME TRUTHS OR,
BETTER STILL, SIMPLY TAKE HIM AWAY? KRENE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DUBLIN00826
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780108-0933
Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780384/aaaacsux.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01b1acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3377000
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL IN IRISH PRESS MARCH 10, 1978 FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH PRESS MARCH 10, 1978 UNDER HEADING JUST WHAT THE
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, UK, EI
To: n/a
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01b1acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014